

# SONSHINE LUNCH CLUB NEWS

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## Average Daily Attendance at the Soup Kitchen

January - 98  
February - 108  
March - 100



June 2018



Wow!  
It takes many  
cakes to  
celebrate 150  
birthdays at the  
same time!

A special event at the SLC is an extra-special meal to mark an event, birthdays or season for example: a summer BBQ, a birthday party, Easter. The volunteers are organizing a special event for our guests almost every month.

One such special event, a Birthday Party, was organized by Friday group in October. This is a party for everyone's birthday on the same day. A special menu was prepared, presents were handed out, and musical entertainment was provided by a local ukulele group, "Time for Uke".

## Major Renovation to Facilities at the Sunshine Lunch Club

During the twenty plus years that the Sunshine Lunch Club has been in operation, it has been held at St. Georges United Church in downtown Courtenay. This facility has been very suitable for its central location, the size of the hall and general accessibility. The Lunch Club has been very thankful that over the years St. Georges United has given permission for their building to house this program.

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## SONSHINE LUNCH CLUB NEWS

### Major Renovations continued from page 1

Not long after the start of the Lunch Club, a dishwasher was installed in the kitchen. What a relief to washing all those dishes by hand! More recently other upgrades were made in the kitchen: new ovens, new fridges, another new dishwasher. However, the actual structure has had minimal updates or repairs. In the kitchen, this has made it difficult to sanitize the food prep areas and to keep a sink available for hand washing. The washroom facilities are also in need of replacement and upgrades. New washrooms are needed with access for handicapped people and to provide comfort and safety for our guests and volunteers.

Early this year, the staff and management of St. Georges United Church approached the Board of the Sonshine Lunch Club to partner with them in funding a renovation of both the kitchen and the washroom area. The United Church has tendered quotes for updates of both of these areas and this has come in at a cost of approximately \$100,000. St. Georges has asked the SLC to raise a third of this amount. As a primary user of these spaces, the SLC has agreed to begin a fundraising program, specifically for the renovations, over the next months.

Updates in the kitchen will consist mainly of new counter tops, cabinets and flooring. The centre island will be looked at, particularly around the dishwasher, and possibly reconfigured. The configuration of the outer walls will remain the same but the cupboards will be replaced. Included in the plans is a new hand washing sink and a wall tap that will accommodate filling the coffee urn and the soup pots. The bathrooms will be completely renovated for handicapped access, comfort and sanitation.

We are appealing to the community, service clubs, individuals, business and community groups to help SLC raise these funds so that our volunteers can know that the best food safety standards are being met in providing lunches to our guests. Please note: all donations that are intended for this project, should be marked "Renovation Fund". Cheques payable to the Sonshine Lunch Club may be dropped off at St. George's United Church, 505 6th Street, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 1M5 or mailed to the same address.

## **Special Thanks:**

This past year marked the retirement from the SLC Board of 3 founding members: Malcolm (Mac) Wilson, Lydia Wilson and Ivan Beddows. Mac served as President and then Vice-President, Lydia served as Secretary and Ivan was the Treasurer. These three filled the most important positions of the organization for over 20 years. They were there for the establishing of the lunch club, setting up of the Constitution and By-Laws and Application for Charitable Status. They then oversaw the growth and continuance of the Club over the years. We owe each of them a huge debt of gratitude

## **Sonshine Lunch Club Celebrates 20 Years**

It was 20 years ago (July 8, 1998) that the Sonshine Lunch Club was officially incorporated as a Charitable Society. The SLC Constitution states that the purpose of the Society "is to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty; and to take the stranger in through providing free, nutritious meals in a friendly, sociable atmosphere." Mathew 25:34-40. The name Sonshine was chosen to show the light of Jesus to all guests who come through our doors. The logo, as seen on page 1, includes John 8:12 "Jesus said ... I am the light of the world."

Actually, the first soup kitchen was held June 3, 1996. From the St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference at Christ the King Church, Archie Forest was asked to start a soup kitchen in the area. Dave Stephens (former Associate Pastor at St. Georges United Church) suggested that their church might be made available for this purpose. Permission was granted for the use of St. George's kitchen and hall two days a week - Mondays and Thursdays. And these days were covered by Christ the King Catholic Church/ St. Vincent de Paul Society.

As the load was getting heavy for volunteers from Christ the King, on November 25, 1997 a small group of St. George's members assisted by St. John the Divine and St. Peter's Anglican Churches agreed to help with Thursdays meals. On December 5, 1997 Bay Community Church began to serve meals on Fridays. As of February 4, 1999, St. John the Divine Anglican Church took over serving on Thursdays, assisted by some members of St. Peter's in Comox and St. Georges United church then moved to Wednesdays. These same churches continue to be involved today with the addition of Salvation Army Church who serve on Tuesdays and Central Evangelical Free Church who serve on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.

Over the years, God's faithfulness has been exemplified by providing enough funding, donations of food and the required numbers of volunteers to prepare and serve the lunches every day. God is so good!

### **Sonshine Lunch Club 2018 Board of Directors**

Kevin Elsasser—President  
Margaret McKenzie—Treasurer  
Marion Edmondson—Secretary  
Clinton Wise—Director  
Wendy Irwin—Director

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Teresa Blasco—Director  
Arnold Lamb—Director  
Connie Paget—Director  
Brent Hobden—Director